



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

## Jacob Perkins relationship to coinage

2 messages

Tue, Feb 15, 2011 at 3:01 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Mr. Jay Williamson:

I appreciate your telephone call this morning in answer to my inquiry about any relationship of Jacob Perkins to coinage. I am a numismatic researcher and writer on behalf of ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY (a Missouri not for profit corporation) and concentrate on early American material. We operate a money museum at Washington University in St. Louis and are open to the public without charge.

Recently for an article we wrote it was necessary for me to study siderography which as you know was a spectacular invention of Jacob Perkins.

In our collection and those of many others we have a 20th century uniface copper restrike from a die featuring the fact that George Washington was born in Virginia. I had known that the die from which the restrikes were made had been acquired from descendants of the Jacob Perkins family by an American man named Collis and after a few years during which those restrikes were made he donated to the American Numismatic Association's museum in Colorado Springs CO which now holds it. Probably you have such a restrike in your museum's collection. .

I have been long studying coins with the bust of Washington facing left on the obverse with the text WASHINGTON PRESIDENT along most of the obverse border. The first group are dated 1791 and have two designs of obverse and each has a different eagle design on the reverse. They had the denomination of CENT or ONE CENT, They were designed by Gregory Hancock, a diecutter in England and struck by Obediah Westwood an experienced coiner in England in order to try to obtain the contract for striking US copper coinage (for one cent pieces) because the US had no mint facilities at that time.

Then similar copper pieces dated 1792 with the same size head of Washington and the same text WASHINGTON PRESIDENT were coined but had no denomination on them. Almost all 1792 pieces had an eagle and 13 stars on the reverse and almost all were in copper. Who struck these seems to be in confusion or controversy, Some publications attribute them to Jacob Perkins but do not say whether he imported the dies, modified them or copied the 1791 English group.

Then in 1793 another similar group appeared and these are sometimes attributed to Jacob Perkins..

I believe I have a way of determining whether Perkins had anything to do with any of the 1792 or 1793 pieces. I want to get all the available facts before I undertake this matter. Has the appearance of the one die in the possession of the Perkins family anything to do with any conclusion?

I have studied the Bathe book on Jacob Perkins. I know the material about Perkins preparing the funereal medals which obviously were prepared after Washington's death, I think I have read all of the material by Baker, Fuld, Breen and others. What I would like from you for the present is the text of any signs, brochures, pamphlets, speeches, letters or anything you know of relating to the coinage of the 1790s or relating to any coinage equipment or developmental drawings.

This is certainly a longer blast than I intended but I really appreciate anything you wish to send me. I hope it is helpful to your museum's presentation. Communicate with me any way which is convenient.

Eric P. Newman 6450 Cecil Ave. St. Louis MO 63105

Tel: [REDACTED]

Historical Society <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Feb 15, 2011 at 5:29 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Newman,

I have received your inquiry and will spend some time looking into it.

In the meantime would you be kind enough to open the attachment. This silver bust of Washington has been in our collections for a very long time. I thought very little of it until I read in Bathe about an object produced by Perkins. It is described on page 8. the same page which probably interests you. It states "the best known of his work was a pattern silver dollar which he made in 1793, which shows a bust of Washington in military uniform facing left" ..... "a sample design was struck on a thin piece of silver, only one-fifth the thickness of a regular dollar coin....."

Could this piece (attached) be related to Perkins?

I would be interested in your thoughts.

Regards,

Jay

[Quoted text hidden]



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